# THE REDBIRD WORD

Vol. 35 February 2002 No. 5

Alton High Scho College Ave. L, 62002

pushy broads and power trips
RedBird Word
February 2002

# Lazy Kids and the Wellness Continuum

*by Alison Hanold*
*Editor-in-Chief*

I was sitting in Health class the other day, (Yes, I am a SENIOR, and yes, I am in HEALTH. I believe this fact raises my lameness factor to an eight on a ten point scale.) and I flipped my book open to a page that said something along the lines of "healthy behavior makes a healthy person." Now, keep in mind, my senioritis is kicking in full force, and I was paying attention to absolutely nothing in the room, but for some reason that idea struck a chord in my wandering mind.

When I was a kid, my mom would send me to my room if I didn't eat all of my vegetables. Now she tells me that if I don't stop drinking so much soda, my stomach is going to be completely rotten by the time I'm 40 years old. Despite this, I always considered myself to be a somewhat healthy person. I mean, I'm not *sick*, right? But that term, healthy behavior, kept poking at my brain. I don't eat "square meals" much less three of them. I don't play a sport, so unless climbing up to the fourth floor at least four times a day is considered aerobics, I don't necessarily get sufficient exercise either.

While I was debating my own status on the Wellness Continuum, (for all you non-Health students out there, the Wellness Continuum is a hypothetical scale that measures a person's health,) I remembered the weekend when I got a total of three hours of sleep and made frequent junk food runs to Quick Trip with my friends at all hours of the morning. I even fell asleep one night on a friend's shoulder with the remote in one hand and a half eaten bowl of macaroni in the other. I get so little sleep, that I attended one of my finals so deliriously tired, that I'm sure the entire class thought I was drunk. That's it, no more debating. I'm unhealthy.

I'm obviously not alone though. The amount of unhealthy teens seems to get worse generation by generation. Americans progressively are getting fatter and fatter. The amount of teens today that have problems with drugs, alcohol and sex is staggering. Insomnia is also a growing problem in our society. I would personally consider it a tragedy if our generation went down in history as "Generation Sick." Is it that growing up we all became immensely used to just sitting in front of the television? Is it that the typical teenager's idea of a good time on the weekend is to go out and get as drunk as possible? It'll be a sad thing at our class reunion when we all show up overweight with bags under our eyes and kidney problems. Realizing all of this makes me want to get more sleep at night. And hey, maybe I'll even see you at the gym.

**Happy Valentines Day!**
**from the RedBird Word Staff**

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## Our Mission

**2001-2002**

***"News with a purpose...***
***inform,***
***enlighten,***
***and entertain."***

## Letters to the Editor

The RedBird Word staff would love to hear your feedback. Please send any comments, questions, complaints, or ideas to Mrs. Brave's room, 401.

**Alton Senior High School**
2200 College Ave.
Alton, IL 62002

***Good-bye early grads! We'll miss you!***

STRAIGHT FROM THE BIRD'S MOUTH
RedBird Word
February 2002

# I bet you thought you were thinking for yourself

*by Scott Schwartz*
*Entertainment Editor*

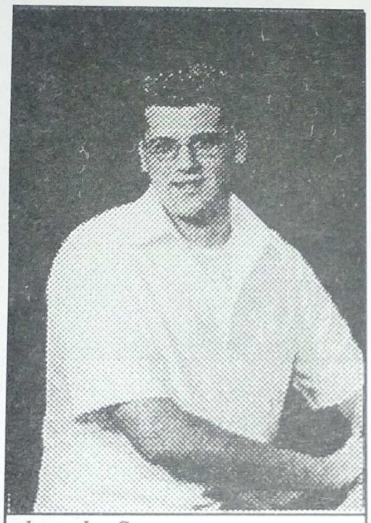


*photo by Sears*

So you were under the impression that you were thinking for yourself, right? Well, no matter if you're wearing low-tops, a dog collar or Abercrombie, you're wrong. We have all been subject to eighteen years, more or less, of conditioning that has taught us what we now perceive as common knowledge. As Paul Rampton explains in his book *Trust Us We're Experts*, using the science of mass persuasion, marketing experts have been telling us what to believe for the past 80 years.

"When you are sick you need immediate antibiotics," and, "household cleaning products are safe as long you don't ingest any," are two everyday facts that corporations spent billions of dollars in marketing for us to accept. For 50 years auto makers had American people believing that inhaling leaded gasoline was perfectly harmless, and that lead naturally occurs in the body.

As marketing experts know, the best PR happens when the people are aware that they are being manipulated. Along with that, the key to mass persuasion, as companies learned long ago is independent third-party endorsement. If GM, for example, were to say that global warming was a hoax thought up by liberal tree-huggers, the public would be suspect because GM is in the business of making exhaust. If an independent research institute with a credible sounding name like the Global Climate Coalition comes out with a report indicating the green house effect is non-existent the public is more inclined to believe it.

The International Food Information Council Center for Produce Quality, The Consumer Alert Tobacco Institute Research Council, and The American Council on Science and Health are all corporately funded organizations with high-sounding names that conduct junk science in order to shape the images of their parent companies. Most university research is now corporately funded as well. Today's science is being bought and sold.

Remember, if everyone knows something, that knowledge was bought and paid for.

# Milk, Does it Do Your Body Good?

*by John Mook*
*Senior Editor*

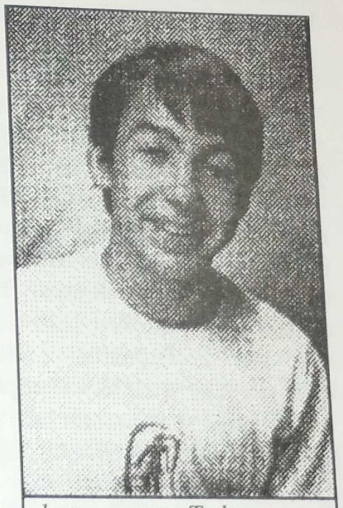


*photo courtesy Tatler*

Mom always said, "Start your day off with a healthy glass of milk", but what Mom did not know was the health problems milk cause. Milk, which is said to do a body good, is actually bad for your body. The low iron content makes it bad for children in the first years of life. The risk of osteoporosis makes it harmful to elders. Last but not least, the disgusting facts about how milk is made makes it harmful to everyone.

Cow's milk has extremely low iron content. Every eight-ounce serving contains only one-tenth a milligram of iron. An infant would have to drink 31+ quarts of milk per day to get the U.S. Recommended Daily Allowance of 15mg. of iron. Also, milk can cause blood loss from the intestinal tract. Some infants, who are sensitive to cows milk, can lose large amounts of blood just by consuming it. Most nutritionists against the drinking of cows milk say mothers should feed their baby breast milk.

In countries where dairy products are not normally consumed, there is less osteoporosis than in the United States. A report done by the Harvard Nurses found that milk did not protect against bone fractures. In fact, they followed 78,000 women for a 12-year period and found that those who drank three glasses of milk per day had more fractures than those who rarely drank milk. People are urged to eat green leafy vegetables such as kale or broccoli. Beans and fortified orange juice are high in calcium.

The fat content in milk is alarmingly high. Whole milk, butter, ice cream, and other dairy products, except for skim and non-products, contain significant amount of cholesterol and saturated fat. The only way to rid yourself of this is to find a milk supplier that doesn't overuse its cows and also drink skim milk to reduce the cholesterol and saturated fat concerns.

The health problems in cows milk make it hazardous to people's health. Government funding does not seem to be there in the way of investigations of dairy farms. Drinking soy milk or other non-animal milk helps reduce these problems, but consulting with your doctor is the best way to find out what's right for you.

RedBird Word
NEWS & STUFF
February 2002

# JROTC Makes Trip to Veterans Hospital

*by Andy Clark*
*Senior Editor*

On December 19, the Alton High Junior ROTC went to the Veteran's Hospital in St. Louis. The cadets' goal was to spread goodwill and holiday cheer to hospital-bound veterans. A total of 24 cadets went on this holiday mission, and many returned feeling they had done something good for their fellow man.

"It was sad seeing all those people in the hospital, but I felt good doing what we were doing," said senior Megan Erwin.

The cadets chatted and spent time with the veterans on every floor, from veterans who were permanently hospitalized to those just there for a checkup. Cadets also had small gifts and homemade items for the veterans. These presents included decks of cards, fresh fruit, Bibles and homemade Christmas cards made by a sponsor's third grade class. Many veterans were very grateful to have company while in the hospital.

"I'm glad young people take time to see old vets like me in the hospital," said veteran Richard Ingles.

"The trip went very well," said JROTC instructor, Sergeant Bedard when asked about the trip. "It was good to see young and old people intermix and it was great to see our young people bring a little joy and happiness to veterans," added Bedard.

*JROTC Cadets Doug Beiser, Mike Show and Ben Cooke sit with veteran Richard Ingles*

*photo by Andrew Clark*

# AHS Prepares For Musical

*by Juan Black*
*Senior Editor*

As Anne Davis and Glenn Waters work hard at completing the plans for this years musical, "Once Upon a Mattress," excited students also prepare.

Auditions for this years musical will be held February 19, at 3 p.m. in the auditorium. Auditions for non-singing roles will be held on Thursday February 21, at 3 p.m. in room 123. Students auditioning are required to sing a piece of their choice or a selection selected by Mrs. Davis.

Rehearsals for the musical are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays right after school until about 5 p.m. and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 p.m. until about 9 p.m.

"After everything is said and done we usually end up practicing about 100 hours total," said choral director Mrs. Davis.

Mr. Waters will be retiring this year after serving as Alton High School's theater director for 33 years. Waters is very optimistic about this being his last musical of his teaching career. "This musical is the first musical that I ever did as director," said Waters.

"One thing that has kept me here all these years is definitely the kids. It has been amazing seeing the creative process and how the kids grow," added Waters.

# Encounter Season Off to Good Start

*by Sarah Whitney & Courtney Schien*

With the beginning of the new year, Encounter, a Christian youth singing group, kicked off its 30th season with its first rehearsal of the year. Encounter is made up of teens between the ages of 14 and 21, and is located at Main Street United Methodist Church in Alton.

This year the group will be singing a musical called, "We Will Worship" by Dennis Jernigan. Rehearsals are every Sunday night from 5:45 p.m. to 8 p.m. until the first performance on Easter Sunday, March 31, at Main Street Methodist. There are performances every Sunday after the first at a different location.

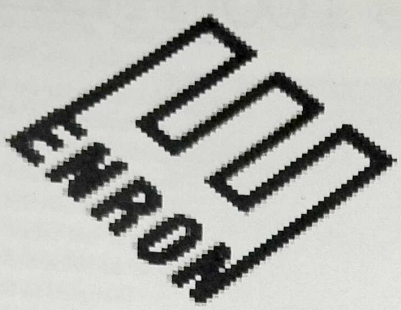
"We hope to gain a better feeling for worship so that when we go out to other churches we can actually lead to others in worship," said Debbie Kanyo, Encounter's music director.

The group also participates in other activities during the year. They attend a retreat in February, a Mini Tour in June, and Tour in July. This year the group will be going to Colorado for Tour. The group also takes part in several fund-raisers to pay for the expenses of their ministry.

"I joined Encounter because my church doesn't have a choir group for younger kids and I don't have time for chorus in school," said freshman Julie Whitney.

# Enron Hits Rock Bottom

*By Daniel Lester*
*Senior Editor*




December 2, 2001 was a cold day for the shareholders and workers of the Enron Corporation. This worldwide energy conglomerate filed for bankruptcy as its stock price plummeted from near ninety dollars a share to under one dollar a share.

There were questions of how and why this could happen to such a promising company with a great future thanks to the new energy bill proposed by Congress. That is exactly what Enron failed to become. Beginning with their acquisition of oil and gas companies in 1997, Enron had the ability to conceal its losses in these subsidiaries.

The first public awareness of Enron's mammoth debt came to light on October 16, 2001. CEO Kenneth Lay announced that the company had overestimated its profits and had actually posted a $618 million loss in the third quarter of the fiscal year.

Over the next two months, Enron's stock kept plummeting, until it had reached an all time low of 26 cents per share on December 2. This was the "black day" as referred to by Lay, who filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

Things only took a turn for the worse when Arthur Anderson, the accounting company for Enron, announced that they had found "possible illegal acts" committed by Enron. It seemed that the Enron Corporation had instructed Anderson CEO Joseph Berardino to destroy all "nonessential documents relating to the audit of Enron."

These documents had contained all of the financial woes that Enron and Lay had hoped to conceal. They showed how the company had used small subsidiaries to play as fronts for the huge debt Lay's company had been incurring. Two major subsidaries were companies called JEDI and Chewco, who were players in the gas and oil industry.

The final straw for Enron happened on January 9 when the Justice Department announced a criminal investigation into the company. After receiving the tip-off from Arthur Anderson, the U.S. Justice Department had reason to believe that the corporation's top executives had known about all of this and tried to conceal it from shareholders.

This company also had a rather peculiar way with stock options. It was that Enron had frozen all of its assets for ten days just as the stock had started to take its dive to the bottom of the barrel. Many employees and retirees of Enron had their 401(K) and retirements plans wrapped up in Enron stock, and lost everything.

# Lock Down Disputes

*By Daniel Lester*
*Senior Editor*

Taliban and al-Qaida fighters, who fought against the United States, are getting a lesson in the American prison system. About 158 detainees are sitting in prison cells at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, a U.S. Military base. The treatment of the prisoners has been a topic of heated debate throughout the world.

The European Union, Dutch and German governments, British legislators, Amnesty International and the Red Cross have demanded that the captives be given "prisoner of war" status. European Union's relations commissioner, Chris Patte, stated, "The West risks losing the support for the war on terrorism if the prisoners are mistreated or abused."

United States officials has repeatedly said the treatment of the prisoners is "humane" and " appropriate." Secretary Rumsfeld has said that they are given warm showers, toiletries, clean clothes, blankets, regular culturally-appropriate meals, prayer mats, and the right to practice their religion. The false accusations of these people being abused has come from "people who are onlooking at a comfortable distance," not by anyone inside the compound.

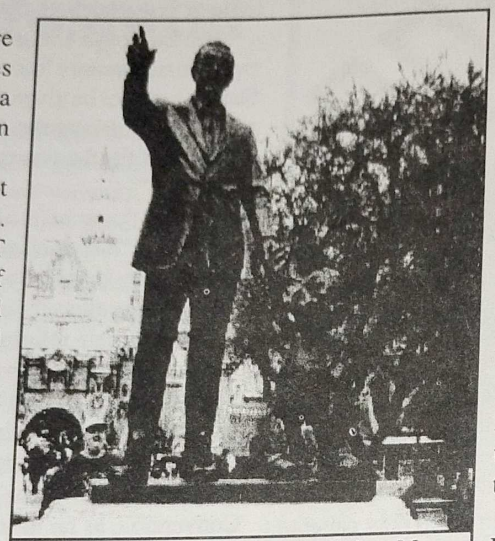
Despite all of the international urging for P.O.W. status to be invoked, the United States has yet to make a decision on the status of the prisoners. " The United States has stayed within the Geneva Convention, as far as treatment of the prisoners" said one U.S. Official.

# Disney Celebrates 100th Birthday

*by Alex McMullen*

Rising early in the morning to cure mounting anticipation, a child scurries across the hall to wake his parents. With a giggle, he announces the plan for a day in Walt Disney World.

Located in Orlando, Florida, Walt Disney World features four theme parks. These include the Magic Kingdom, EPCOT (Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow), MGM Studios, and the Animal Kingdom. All four theme parks spread across 20,000 acres of land. (For comparison, the St. Louis Zoo is set on only 84 acres of land.) Walt Disney World has entered its 31st season and is celebrating Walt Disney's 100th birthday.



*A statue of Walt Disney and Mickey Mouse is on display. (courtesy of more.net)*

Disney was born in Marceline, Missouri on December 5, 1901. Sadly, Walter Ellias Disney did not live to see Walt Disney completed. He died of lung cancer in 1966, but his entertainment empire has thrived throughout the world on the strength of the icon Mickey Mouse. To honor Disney's century, the parks in Orlando commenced on a yearlong celebration that started on October 1, 2001 and runs until October 1, 2002. MGM Studios is the center of operations for the celebrations with the unveiling of a 122 foot tall sorcerer hat taken from the classic film *Fantasia,* in which Mickey dons a similar hat. Also featured at the park is the new attraction *Walt Disney: One Man's Dream.* This is an attraction which details his life and passions with interviews from family and friends and artifacts relevant to his life. In the Magic Kingdom, a new parade entitled *Share a Dream Come True,* begins twice a day. As the celebration continues, the company looks toward the future.

With his statue at the center of the Magic Kingdom, Walt Disney will always be the brilliant founder of the magic that is Disney. In the words of his nephew Roy Disney, "It just comes down to genius, and he clearly had that even at the beginning of his career."

# Cities of Enchantment

*by Karla Killam*

The lights dim and a slow song starts, as Alton High students enjoy their 2002 prom. Prom will be on May 11, 2002, which is earlier than in the past. Prom has changed over the years, but this may be the best change yet.

This year's Alton High 2002 prom will be held at Lewis and Clark Community College in their new ballroom. The ballroom will be completed sometime this winter. Alton High wants to avoid the long drive to SIUE for the students' safety and convenience.

This year's prom DJ will not only play music, but will show videos on 15 foot screens. These 15-foot screens will be placed throughout the ballroom. Heart Breakers is the name of the disc jockeys, who are from Indiana.

"I want this year's prom to be very special for the kids," said Gail Burjes, Student Council sponsor.

The theme for Prom 2002 is, "Cities of Enchantment." The theme will consist of four romantic cities: Paris, New York, Venice, and London. Each corner of the room will be decorated as the cities. Other cities that were considered but did not make the grade were Las Vegas, Rome, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

Student Council makes all of the arrangements for Prom each

# School: A Safe Place?

*by Nik Kern*
*Managing Editor*

Statistics show that schools are among the safest place for teenagers to be, yet thoughts of school shootings and massacres still haunt the minds of many students and teachers. Schools have been scrambling to immerse students in drug prevention, anti-violence and alcohol abuse prevention to ward off the problems of today's teenagers.

Alton High, for example, has started PBIS and has peer mediation. In the elementary and middle schools, D.A.R.E. and peer mediation also play a role in the attempt to diffuse and prevent drug, alcohol, and violence issues.

Are these programs helping prevent such violence issues in schools? According to *www.abcnews.com*, teenage drug use has increased since 1999. Also, *www.mapinc.com* displays the cons of the D.A.R.E program and if it has had an affect on students. Many students claimed to take the program only for the free shirt, and did not comprehend its message. These statistics bring a question to many students' minds, "How safe are we at school?"

"I feel safe, I have no problem," said Emily Durbin, sophomore.

"Sometimes I feel threatened at school," said Samantha Miles.

Seek *www.crisiscounseling.com* for more information.

# Talented Student Takes Flight

*by Diane Holden*
*Senior Editor*

For many people, it is a dream to get their pilot's license. One exceptional student has that chance. Megan Erwin is a senior who is taking a flight class to get her pilot's license.

Erwin has been in the JROTC program for three years. She has always known that she wants to go into the military.

Erwin's mother, Mary Erwin, saw an ad in the paper over the summer for a scholarship from Langa Air Academy in Bethalto. The scholarship required a creative essay. Mrs. Erwin thought it would be a good idea for Megan to enter the essay. Erwin thought she could spice up her essay by putting it on audio tape and adding music in the backround and making it unique.

Erwin got a call back that said she was one of the top three finalists. Mark Schniderhann, the person in charge of publications, wanted to meet her, interview her, and have her do a discovery flight, which is where they let you fly the plane without taking off and landing. She beat out the other two finalists and received the scholarship.

Erwin won $5,500 to spend on flight school and flight accessories. "I was so happy," said Erwin.

Erwin attends flight classes when she wants to, but when the spring comes she will also be busy playing softball. She goes twice a week for two to three hours. The class consists of going over lessons on a computer and flying a Cessna. Erwin practices landing, taking off, and a variety of maneuvers.

Erwin plans on attendening Ohio State and joining the Navy to become a fighter pilot. "That's my ultimate goal," said Erwin.

# Clearly Refreshing for All Athletes

*by Doug Beiser*
*Senior Editor*

There is a new beverage on the market today which is special water scientifically formulated as the ultimate refreshment product for athletes. This product is called Clearly Canadian O+2. It is made with natural spring water.

This oxygen superior water is available in unflavored water and in two thirst-quenching flavors that include berry-citrus and fruit-citrus. The unflavored water contains up to ten times the amount of oxygen as normal water, while the flavored water only contains five times the amount of oxygen as normal water.

It is a proven fact that oxygen can increase brainpower. Andrew Scholey, director of the Human Cognitive Neuroscience unit at the Universary of Northumbria in Newcastle, England said, "We found a dose of oxygen or glucose can improve performance on tasks that require great mental effort."

To conduct his tests, Scholey and his team first monitored students as they played the game Tetris. He found when the students played the game at beginner levels, doses of oxygen and glucose did not help their scores. But as the players reached higher levels, the students showed vast improvement after breathing pure oxygen and drinking a sweet, lemon-flavored glucose drink.

# Q&S Promotes Literacy for Kids

*by Josh Lambie*
*Business Editor*

This past December, Quill and Scroll members went to Lewis and Clark Elementary School. In the spirit of Christmas, the members of Quill and Scroll read and donated Christmas books to the students and spent time interacting with them. Some of the members even sang Christmas carols in the classroom with the students.

"I thought singing was fun," said senior Daniel Lester. "It is just great to get out and do something. The kids were great."

This provided an oportunity for the elementary students to relate to high school students that they look up to as role models. This is also a great chance for the members of Quill and Scroll, as role models, to encourage education and literacy. Besides being educational, this field trip was an occasion for all students to take a break from the hassles of everyday life and enjoy reading for fun.

"My favorite part was when a little boy asked me if he could touch my hair," said senior Katie Scoggins. "It made my day."

Quill and Scroll has been invited back in March to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday. This day is set aside just for reading, and Quill and Scroll will participate in this celebration.

# Tom Raglin Gives ROTC Wings to Fly

*by Andrea Zimmerman*

The blue uniforms of the JROTC are a common sight at Alton High today. Tom Raglin was the initiator of this program in 1995.

A teacher at Alton High School, Mr. Raglin is a native of Alton. He left AHS in his senior year to join the Armed Forces, through which he later received his GED. It was there that Raglin entered the aviation program. Although he was too young to enter the Korean war, Raglin continued to study aviation.

Raglin later attended Chicago State University. There he earned a Master's degree in administration and aviation technology, for which he gave a dissertation on the Tuskegee Airmen.

Raglin taught in the Chicago area for many years after he graduated. "I came back to Alton because I wanted to teach in my hometown before retirement," he said.

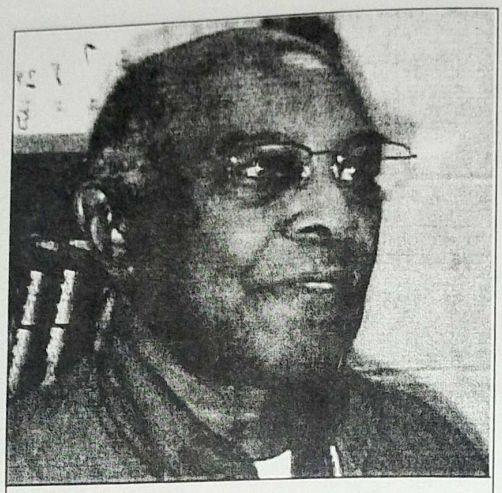


*photo by Julie Strassman*

Upon return to Alton in 1993, Raglin immediately saw the need for leadership in Alton's youth. Raglin said, "I felt bringing the ROTC program to Alton High would benefit the aviation business around the area."

Through Raglin, many scholarships have come into the JROTC program, such as the Tuskegee Scholar which provides the recipient with $1,500. Raglin keeps his ties with the program by monitoring it with Lt. Col. Baker.

# Good bye, Seniors; Hello, Pit Space!

*by Holly Westmoreland*

This year there have been many more January graduates than in past years. Over a fourth of the senior class left at various dates in January. The official last day was January 18, but depending on whether the students were starting college second semester, some were allowed to graduate sooner.

Students attending SIUE second semester left on January 4, while students attending Lewis and Clark left on January 14. Early graduates who were not beginning college second semester attended classes until January 18, depending on whether they were required to take the finals. Students who left earlier only had to take the comprehensive finals.

About 150 out of 377 seniors graduated at semester, leaving nearly 150 open parking spaces in the Pit. Any junior with 16 credits is eligible for a Pit sticker.

This may help make up for the disappointment of juniors who were hoping to graduate early their senior year. This was the last year for juniors being able to graduate in January. Next year students must attend high school four years and have at least 20 credits to graduate.

# Thespians Don't Drink the Water

*by Julie Strassman*
*Senior Editor*

*Don't Drink the Water*, by Woody Allen, is a hilarious farce of confused tourists, young lovers, power hungry politicos, magic-performing priests and hostile Communists.

The story begins with Magee, played by David Morris, who has been left in charge of the American Embassy in Russia in the absence his father, the Ambassador, played by Jeremy Myers, despite his long record of political mishaps.

Magee soon has his hands full with three American tourists, played by Adam Tucker, Julie Strassman, and Susie Scyoc, who have been accused of being American spies by Krojack, a Communist military commander, played by Greg Jackson.

The American tourists are forced to stay in the Embassy. There they meet Father Drobney, a priest, played by Brandon Krepel, who has been in the Embassy for twenty years to keep from being arrested by the Communists.

While the tourists are getting adjusted to life in the Embassy, Magee is having trouble keeping the situation under control. The Embassy is surrounded by Communist troops, wanting to arrest the tourists, and Magee ruins an important oil deal by insulting a Sultan and his wife, played by Jack Nguyen and Katie Cline.

Kilroy, a manager at the Embassy, played by Andrew Clark, loses no time in attempting to take control of the Embassy from Magee, who is too busy falling in love with Susan, to notice Kilroy's plans.

The play has a large cast of interesting and colorful supporting characters, played by Sally Plunkett, Mike Crawford, Eric Stolze, Jennifer Gaddy and Michael McCann.

Mr. Waters, Theater Director at AHS, said, "Don't Drink the Water is a great show that I think the audience will definitely enjoy."

The play will be performed on March 9 and 10, at 8 p.m. both nights. Tickets are two dollars in advance for students and three dollars at the door. Adult tickets are three dollars. Red, gold and white cards will be accepted at the door. Tickets can be purchased in advance from any cast member.

# DUKE BAKERY

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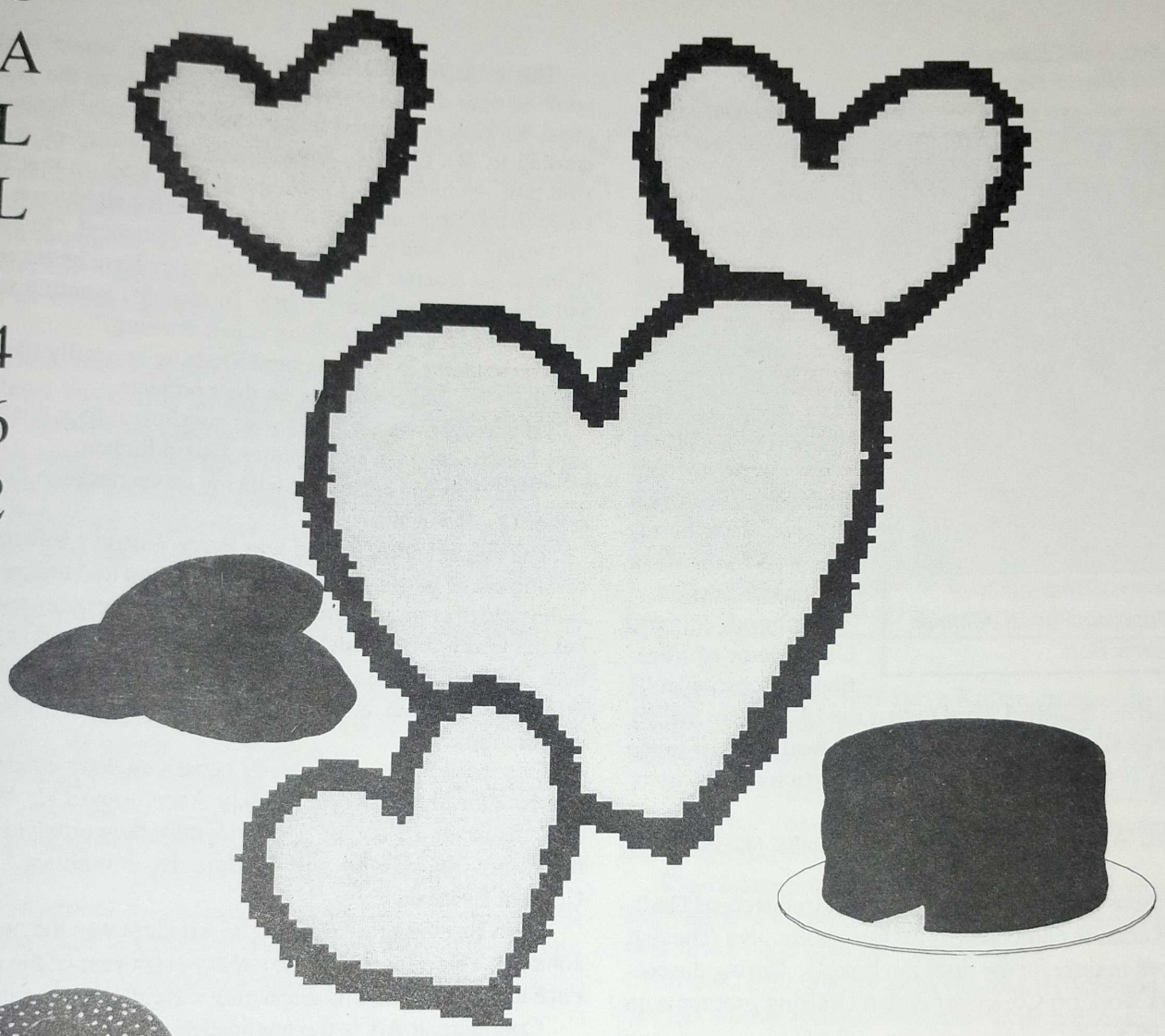

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

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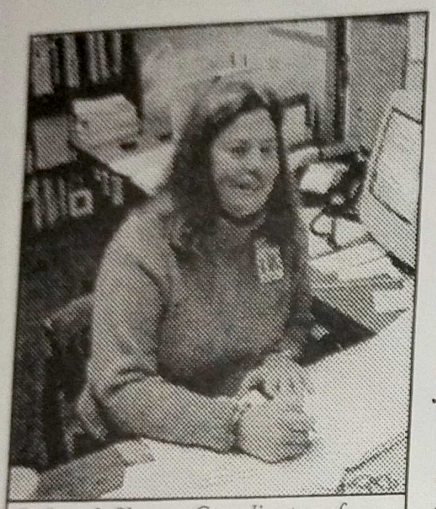
"The official bakery of the Redbird Word"

# Plenty of Opportu

*by Adam Betz News Editor &*
*Andrew Bott Humor Editor*

*Coverstory Editor*
*Andrew Duggan*



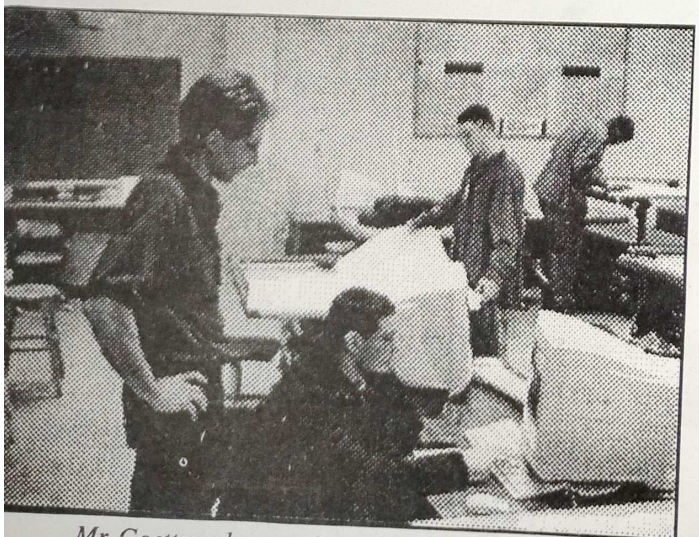
*Deborah Sheary, Coordinator of Vocational Education at JB Johnson photo by Andrew Bott*

"Welcome to JB Johnson Center, A Great Place to Plan for Your Future," reads the inspirational sign in the commons area of JB Johnson. With over a dozen specialized vocational classes for high school students, JB Johnson is a great place for students to focus on a planned profession.

Deborah Sheary, Coordinator of Vocational Education at JB Johnson, invited the RedBird Word to tour the JB Johnson facility and sit in on several classes this past month. Sheary is new to the job, having only just recently assumed this position in January of 2002.

The RedBird Word sat in on five of the many classes at JB Johnson.

The first of these classes was Pat Goetten's Architectural Drafting course. This class is composed of juniors and seniors. The first year juniors work mainly on the drawing boards. During the second year seniors work on Computer Aided Drafting programs on state-of-the-art PCs.



*Mr. Goetten observes his student's work photo by Andrew Bott*

This class features a relaxed atmosphere where students can work on their drawings. Assignments throughout the year include plans for both residential homes and commercial businesses. According to Mr. Goetten, approximately one-third of the students who take Architectural Drafting go on to work in that field. Mr. Goetten has been teaching at JB Johnson for eight years.

During an interview, Mr. Goetten commented, "Students at JB Johnson get a better feel for industry. They have better equipment, and are better prepared for life. To students wanting to take my class, don't be afraid. Drafting is just drawing."

The students in Architectural Drafting generally like the class, and have fun while working on their projects.

"If you ever want to build your own house, then this would be a very beneficial class," said junior, David Eichen.

"This class has helped me with my career decision," commented senior Ginny Hatten.

The second class visited was Perry Wilson's Information Processing class. In this class, students develop and utilize their skills in the field of computer processing. The main program used throughout the year is Microsoft Office Suite, which is used in many business offices. The class gives students a head start into this field by providing an office atmosphere and the same tools used by large corporations.

One thing that would greatly benefit students interested in this course is the ability to type quickly. According to Mr. Wilson, most students in the class type approximately 50 words per minute. "In the future, everything will be done by computers," said junior Christin Edwards.

Lexa Browning's Commercial Art class was the next stop at JB Johnson. This year marks the twenty-sixth year of the class's existence at JB Johnson, and Browning's eighth year teaching it.

Commercial Art is the application of art, design, or animation for purposes in the commercial advertising world.

In the class students use industry-standard programs and computers to design and create their artwork. The class will soon expand to screen printing and the design of t-shirts, caps and other similar items.

Mrs. Browning believes that it is important in her class to maintain a low-key atmosphere where the students are treated as adults. "I give the students just enough rope to hang themselves," she said with a chuckle.

Mrs. Browning also figures that approximately one-fourth of her students go on into the field of commercial arts.

"Students who like to see an application of what they are learning do very well out here," she said regarding the JB Johnson center.

"I really like Commercial Art because of all the projects we do," said senior Elaine Bushnell.

Between classes, the RedBird Word stopped Mrs. Hawkins who teaches Computer Networking. Mrs. Hawkins is a second year teacher at JB Johnson. In Computer Networking

# nities at JB Johnson

students learn how to put together Local Area Networks and Wide Area Networks. The class is worth four semesters of dual credit at Lewis and Clark Community College. Assignments throughout the year include constructing computer cables, and connecting computers. In the future, Mrs Hawkins hopes to expand the class by having students build their own computer and then use it. The class features an online curriculum, with all quizzes and tests on the internet.

The class, according to Mrs. Hawkins, is a difficult one, with college-level work. It is an excellent course for anyone who is interested in computer science or engineering.

"In this class, students get a lot of hands on experience. Students do things as well as learn things," emphasized Mrs. Hawkins.

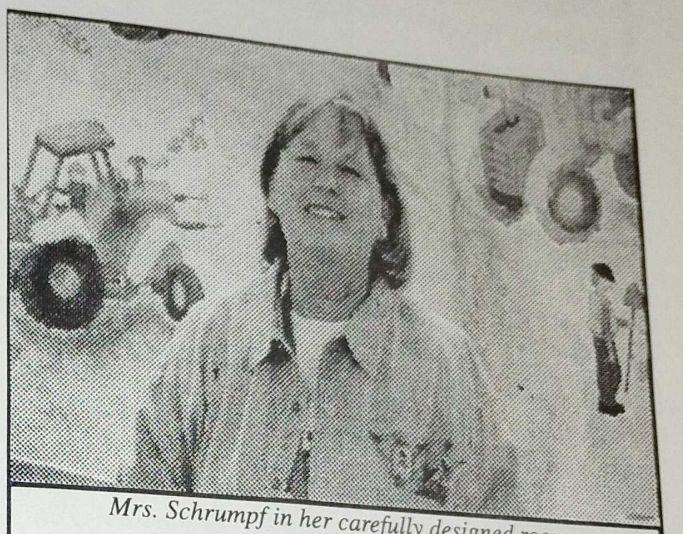
Mary Schrumpf's Child Care class is one of the highlights at JB Johnson. This year is the thirtith year Schrumpf has been teaching child care.

From the beginning of the school year until November, students taking Child Care learn the basics in the classroom portion of the Child Care room. From November to May, the 23 high school students watch and take care of 10 students of the preschool age every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

The child care is not advertised throughout the community, allowing for both former students' children and parents who already know and are interested in the program to bring their children to JB Johnson. The daily fee for the care of children is $2.00.

The facility functions as both a daycare and a preschool. The children learn math, science, art, and music as part of their visits.

The *RedBird Word* visited the Child Care class on a special day. Assistant Fire Chief Steve Kasten dropped by in his fire truck to talk to the students about fire safety, After a short discussion, the children received fire hats and were able to tour the fire engine.

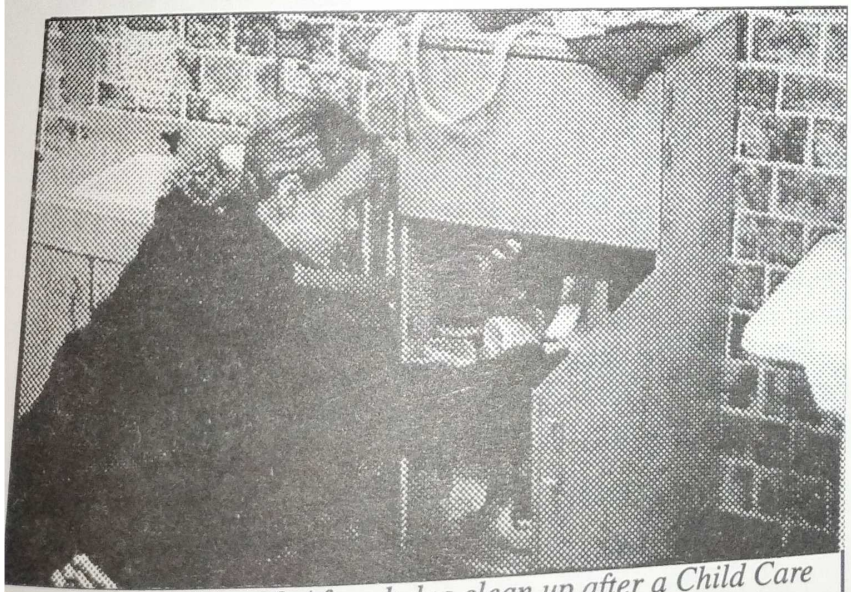


*Mrs. Schrumpf in her carefully designed room*
*photo by Andrew Bott*

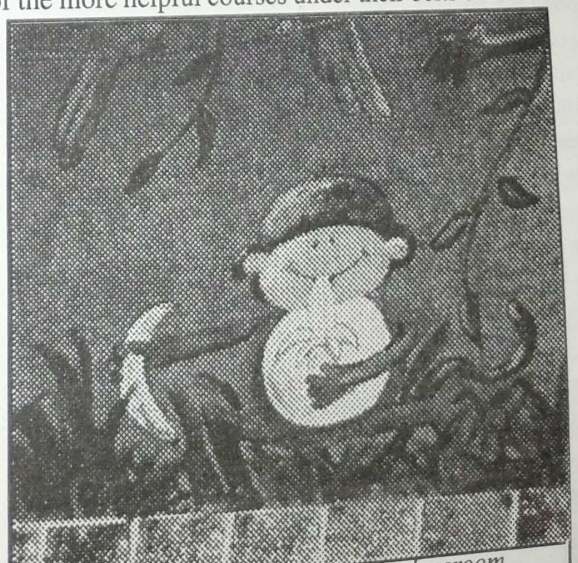
Whitney Campbell, senior, (who gave a wonderful stop, drop, and roll demonstration) thinks that the Child Care class at JB Johnson is a great experience for anybody.

This class teaches you about children's behavior, and gave me a head start into daycare," said Campbell. Campbell plans to go on to work in the child care field after school.

Overall, Mrs. Sheary believes that JB Johnson is a great plac for high school seniors to expand their horizons. "It is importar for students to think about their strengths, career paths, or at lea what they are interested in. JB Johnson is good so students can g some of the more helpful courses under their belts before college



*Junior Ashley McAfoos helps clean up after a Child Care*
*photo by Andrew bott*



*A monkey from Mrs. Shrumpf's classroom*
*photo by Andrew Bott*

ENTERTAINMENT

RedBird Word February 2002

# Music in the Movies

*by Nancy McDonald*
*Entertainment Editor*

A certain song played at exactly the right moment can take a movie to a higher level of excellence. That is why movie soundtracks are almost as important as the movie's director or screenwriter.

The music selected for the new Wes Anderson\Owen Wilson film, *The Royal Tenenbaums*, is as eclectic and quirky as the movie itself. The soundtrack features a little punk (The Ramones and The Clash), a bit of folk (Nick Drake and Nico), and a tune from one of the greatest singers\songwriters of all time, Bob Dylan. Senior Jessica Rost said, "This is the perfect soundtrack for the perfect movie."

*photo courtesy of album.yahoo.com*

Any Beatles fan will truly appreciate the soundtrack for the new Sean Penn\Michelle Pfeiffer film, *I Am Sam*. It is completely comprised of old Beatles songs redone by various other musicians. Most of the artists on the soundtrack stay true to the original song, but others try to make it their own. Lilith Fair's Sarah McLachlan puts her own personal twist on the song "Blackbird", while Eddie Vedder perfectly duplicates John Lennon's vocals on the song "You've Got to Hide Your Love Away." This is definitely a must-have for any Beatles fan.

Academy Award winner Cameron Crowe is commonly known for his hilarious yet effective comedy\dramas, like *Say Anything...*, *Jerry Maguire*, and *Almost Famous*. While Crowe always writes and directs his movies, he also handpicks the music. For Crowe's most recent film, *Vanilla Sky*, he selected songs from a wide range of musicians. Radiohead, R.E.M., Bob Dylan, and the Icelandic band Sigur Ros all make appearances on the soundtrack. Crowe also got ex-Beatle Paul McCartney to sing the title track, "Vanilla Sky". Sophomore Robin Hill said, "If anyone liked the soundtracks to *Almost Famous* or *Jerry Maguire*, they'll most likely love the soundtrack to *Vanilla Sky*."

For more information on old or new soundtracks, visit *www.soundtracknet.com.*

# Does "Rated-R" Really Mean Anything?

*by Kari Oglesby*
*Backpage Editor*

A one year, million dollar study by the Federal Trade Commission revealed that the entertainment industry intentionally markets violent, R-rated material towards children under the age of seventeen.

The Motion Picture Association of America suggests violence in the movies is being overstated. Jack Valenti, head of the Motion Picture Association of America, applauds Hollywood's rating system. On the MPAA's website, Valenti points out that the movie industry is the only segment of our national marketplace that voluntarily turns away the revenues at the box office to redeem the pledge they have made to parents to market questionable titles with appropriate ratings.

The study by the Federal Trade Commission also found that questionable video games are marketed towards teenagers. Music with explicit content and a "mature" rating also is unquestionably targeted towards a teen audience.

Junior Christine Gill said, "I've always noticed that the trailors for R-rated movies were directed towards teens."

In the current political landscape, the Democrats favor blaming companies that are marketed toward teenagers. Republicans, such as George W. Bush, believe the entertainment industry has to take personal responsibility for the products it provides to children. President Bush believes that parents are also responsible.

Senior Cory Maher said, "I believe that the parents have full responsibility of their children and can make the decisions. Children have the right to see R-rated movies with parental supervision."

Politicians often vow to pass laws to regulate the entertainment industry, but little is done because it is difficult to reconcile censorship with the first amendment.

Last year, K-Mart started checking I.D.'s of young shoppers who are buying "mature-rated" video games. Wal-Mart has a similar policy and Sears has stopped selling many violent video games, according to the Christian Science Monitor.

For more information, go to *www.mpaa.org*.

## Upcoming Movies

**Birthday Girl**
Nicole Kidman
February 1

**Rollerball**
LL Cool J & Chris Klein
February 8

**Big Fat Liar**
Frankie Muniz
February 8

**Collateral Damage**
Arnold Schwarzenegger
John Leguizamo
February 8

**Crossroads**
Britney Spears
February 15

## Video Releases

**O**
Mekhi Phifer
Julia Stiles
February 19

**Hardball**
Keanu Reeves
February 19

**Jay & Silent Bob Strike Back**
Kevin Smith & Jason Mewes
February 26

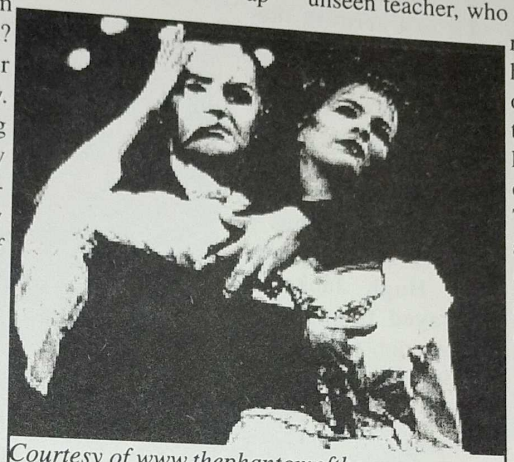
**The One**
Jet Li
March 3

**Zoolander**
Ben Stiller
March 3

# Phantom of the Opera at the Fox

*by Annemarie Adcock*

Imagine. You are sitting in a dark theater, concentrating intensely on the show in front of you. All of a sudden you sense someone approaching you from behind. Is it possible? Are you no longer alone? Don't worry. You are not being followed; only caught up in the famous Broadway Show, *Phantom of the Opera*, that will be playing at The Fabulous Fox Theatre in St. Louis, February 13 -March 9.



*Courtesy of www.thephantomoftheopera.com*

The story begins in the middle of a rehearsal for an opera. The backdrop of the stage falls to the floor almost killing the star, Carlotta. Carlotta decides to give up her role so she can sing, and a chorus girl named Christine is chosen to take Carlotta's place. Unbeknownst to the opera management, she has been taking private lessons from a mysterious, unseen teacher, who is very jealous of Christine's relationship with her childhood friend, Raoul. Christine only discovers that her strange teacher is the Phantom when he leads her to his secret lair, deep within the opera cellars. To try to make Christine the star of the opera, the Phantom strikes, killing a stagehand, and stealing Carlotta's voice during a performance.

Meanwhile, Christine and Raoul confess their love to each other. In a fit of rage, he causes the opera's chandelier to crash to the floor.

Six months pass without a word from the Phantom. Suddenly, he appears! He once again kidnaps Christine, and gives her a choice: stay with him forever or he will kill Raoul. What will Christine decide? Come see and find out for yourself.

# Singer-Songwriter Pete Yorn

*by Carl McMullen*

With smoky bars, everyday people, and interesting aspects of life as themes, *musicforthemorningafter,* by Pete Yorn has solidified its position in the indie rock scene. This critically acclaimed record is the product of much effort and thought by the talented singer-song writer.

Pete Yorn, a Columbia Records newcomer from New Jersey, has rekindled folk rock and the singer-songwriter generation. Taking cues from Bruce Springsteen and The Smith's, Yorn, 26, takes everyday life experiences and adds music to create a highly enjoyable record. In a recent interview Yorn said, "I was trying to make a record that captured everything I love about Britpop."

Yorn's music has reached out to many, including actor Ed Burns and directors Pete and Bobby Farrelly. The Farrelly brothers were so impressed by Yorn that they asked him to compose the score to their movie *Me, Myself, And Irene.* Yorn's song *Just Another* was written about an actress who lived with him in his apartment, and has been featured on the television show *Felicity* and *Songs From Dawson's Creek: Volume II.*

The title celebrity is now being applied to the singer-song writer Yorn. The video for his song "For Nancy (Cos' It Already Is)" has received airplay on MTV2 and the Canadian-broadcasted Much Music. Another song, titled "Lose You," is featured on the soundtrack to the comedy *Orange County.*

Yorn set out on tour last Spring with Semisonic and Blues Traveler. He launched his own tour over the Summer and has continued touring throughout the Winter. He even managed to produce a live record from a concert at the Roxy Theatre in Los Angeles, CA on June 14, 2001.

With all his time spent touring and promoting his albums, Pete Yorn still finds the time to write songs for his next record in stores during the spring or summer of 2002. *Musicforthemorningafter*, which includes songs about many subjects, his next album will have a theme to it. In an MTV interview Yorn said, "The theme of this record is embracing change."

The shaggy-haired, unshaven Yorn has captivated America and the world with his electric music and song writing ability. His records are now sold in Europe, Japan and Canada. The future looks bright for this inventive, vintage singer-songwriter from New Jersey.

## Coming Concerts

**Crosby Stills Nash & Young**
Savvis Center
February 15

**Ludacris**
The Pageant
February 21

**Ani DiFranco**
The Pageant
February 23

**The Calling**
The Galaxy
February 23

**Catch 22**
The Galaxy
March 2

**Bush**
The Pageant
March 3

**Carrot Top**
The Pageant
March 6

**Barry Manilow**
Fox Theatre
March 29, 30

**Nelly Furtado**
The Pageant
March 30

# Love is in the Air

*by Amanda Thomas*

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, it is a surprise that love has hit the big screen. *Kate and Leopold*, starring Meg Ryan as a young businesswoman (Kate), combines romance and comedy into a modern day fairy tale.

Hugh Jackman played the role of Leopold, a charming 19th century Duke. The night he was obligated to choose a wife for money purposes, he followed Kate's ex-boyfriend Stuart (Liev Schreiber) through a time portal. When he found himself in the 21st century, he not only found change, but his true love, Kate. Although at first Kate doubts his honesty, she ends up finding love after years of working toward her career.

*photo courtesy of http://us.imbd.com*

The film, though giving off the impression of being a "chick flick," has been reported to be popular among both males and females. AHS junior, Erika Schallenberg said, "It was a great movie. I would definitely see it again."

# Mick Jagger Keeps on Rolling

*by Elaine Myers*

In November of 2001, Mick Jagger, the lead singer of The Rolling Stones, released yet another solo album, the critically acclaimed *Goddess in the Doorway*. The first single, "God Gave Me Everything," his collaboration with acolyte Lenny Kravitz, has made it to the top 20 list in Japan, France, Holland, Italy, Austria, Switzerland and Germany, where it stormed in at number two, according to mickjagger.com.

This album consists of twelve songs; "Vision of Paradise," "Joy," "God Gave Me Everything," "Don't Call Me Up," "Dancing in the Starlight," "Goddess in the Doorway," "Everybody Getting High," "Lucky Day," "Brand New Set of Rules," "Too Far Gone" and "Hideaway." Jagger worked with many other well-known artists on this album, such as Matt Clifford (former drummer for the Rolling Stones), Bono of U2, Pete Townshend, Joe Perry, Wyclef Jean and Rob Thomas. There is also a track on the album in which Mick's daughters, Elizabeth, 17, and Georgia May, 9, help out by singing background vocals.

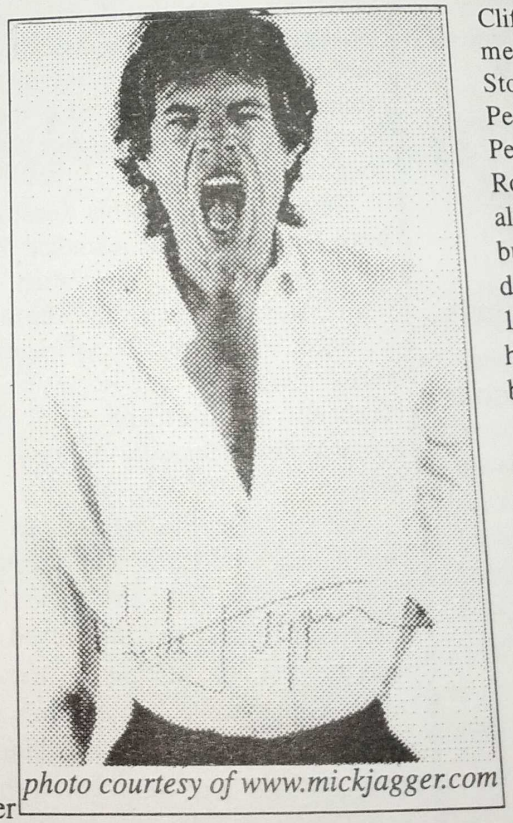


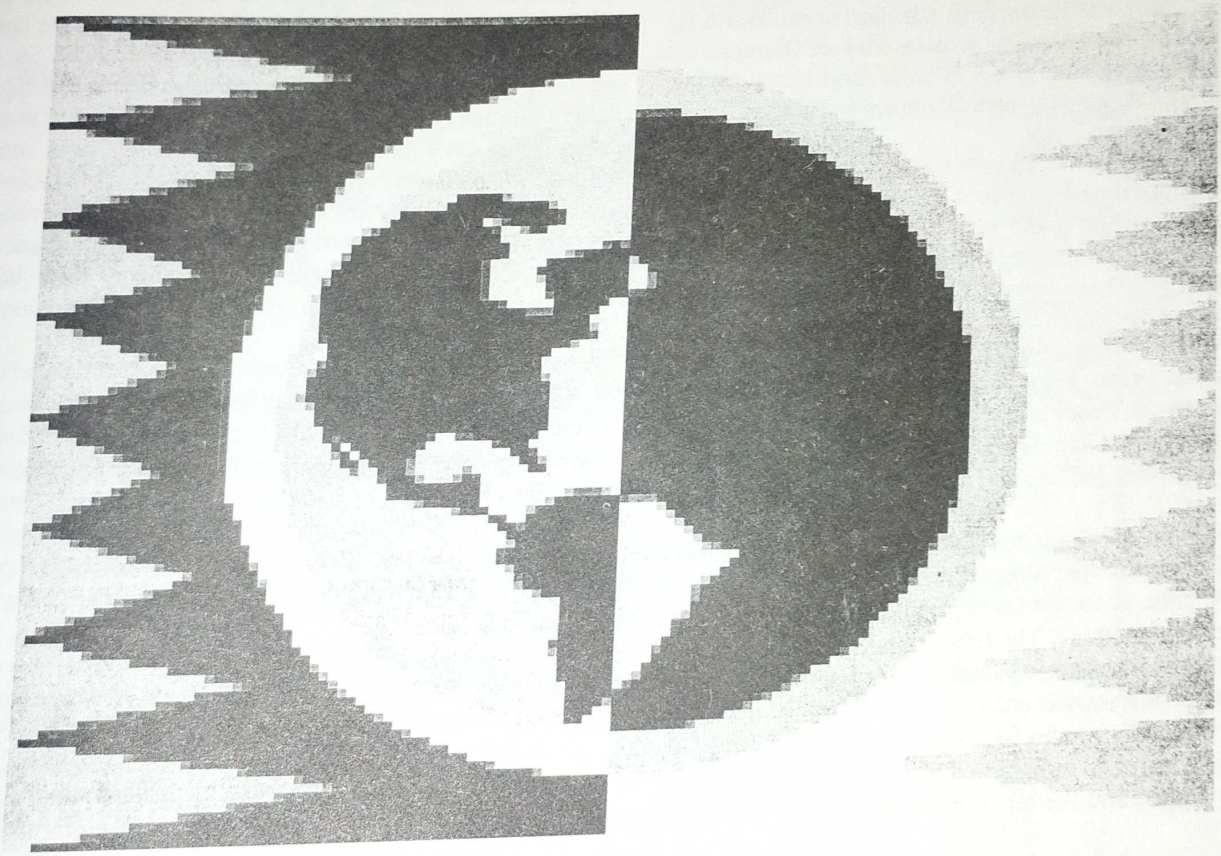
*photo courtesy of www.mickjagger.com*

"These are all very personal songs," Jagger says of the material for *Goddess in the Doorway*. "The thing about this album is that it kept to the original idea. Sometimes these things take on a life of their own, which can be great too, but this one stayed true in a lot of ways to the original concept."

# Stars Over the Riverbend Goes International

**Sponsored by The Growth Association of Southwestern Illinois**

**Young Adults Committee**



## Feb. 24,2002 @ 2 p.m.

## Hatheway Hall Cultural Center LCCC

**For tickets go to Room 214 or for more information call 467-2280**

Simmer down, it's not really real in real life!!!

# The Special *Special* Olympics

*by Andrew Bott*
*Humor Editor*

Anybody who knows me fairly well knows that I am a huge hockey fan. As I was watching the last Blues game on TV, the commentators were talking about the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City and how hockey will be the most televised event. Well I figured it's not fair for Salt Lake City to have a whole Olympics and not invite me to see the best of my favorite sport in action. I decided then and there to hold my own Olympics and not invite them, those exclusive Utahans.

My first task was to come up with a name for my Olympics that would be both appealing and give me credit for the idea. I went straight to my Mom and asked her, "Mom, how would you describe me in one word?" She replied by saying, "Special. You are very, very special." There we go, I would call them the Special Olympics. After some research and a near lawsuit though, I found out that there was already a Special Olympics.

Disheartened, I gave up and watched the Powerpuff Girls marathon for a few hours. I couldn't, however, escape the nagging sensation that I must spite Utah. So, back on the job, I took my original name one step further and decided to call them the Special Special Olympics.

Now that I had the name down, I needed to think of events to hold at the first annual Special Special Olympics. These events had to be fairly simple, as the games would be held in my backyard. I already have some in mind. The first event is Extreme Jogging. In this event, competitors must jog around my house three times, while facing a barrage of spit wads and little kids that kick you in the left shin. The winner is whoever finishes the race the fastest without running. Points will also be awarded based on the amount of paper stuck to the jogger, and the level of bruise intensity on his or her shin.

The next event in MY Olympics is Hyper-speed Downhill Radio Flyer Racing. (A Radio Flyer is a little red wagon, for those who don't know.) Ideally, competitors in this event would go soaring down a 200-foot hill at speeds of up to 78 miles per hour. Unfortunately, my backyard has absolutely no hills at all. So, for this event, competitors must be pushed in their wagons down my back porch stairs and not fall out. In order to make this event more interesting, I dug out a 50-foot pit at the base of my stairs which I intended to fill with rabid alligators. Due to a lack of alligators though, I was forced to fill the pit with stray puppies. The winner of this event is whoever figures out a way to get down the stairs, over the pit of wild puppies, and remain in their wagon. Also, judges will award credit to those athletes who injure the least amount of puppies.

The third most important event at the Special Special Olympics is the Upside-Down Underwater Stare Down. In this event, Olympians must submerge their heads into a large glass container and stare into the eyes of an opponent. Players may not blink or remove their heads from the water at any time. Obviously, whoever lasts the longest without blinking or blacking out is victorious.

Other featured events at my Special Special Olympics will be Hide and Seek, Rock-Paper-Scissors, Hangman, Ring Toss, and Freeze Tag.

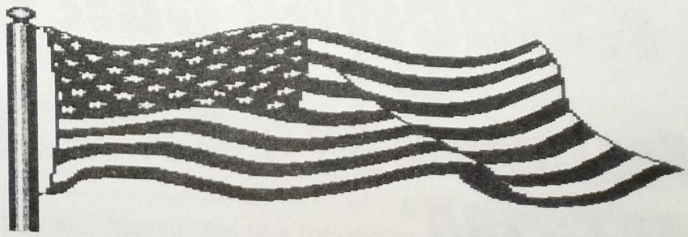
The Special Special Olympics will be held at the same time as the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake. I have already hand-delivered invitations to all the foreign ambassadors, so I expect a large turnout. If anyone from Alton High would like to represent their country in these noble games, please see Andrew Bott for insurance waivers, registration fees, and accidental death forms. Go U.S.A.!

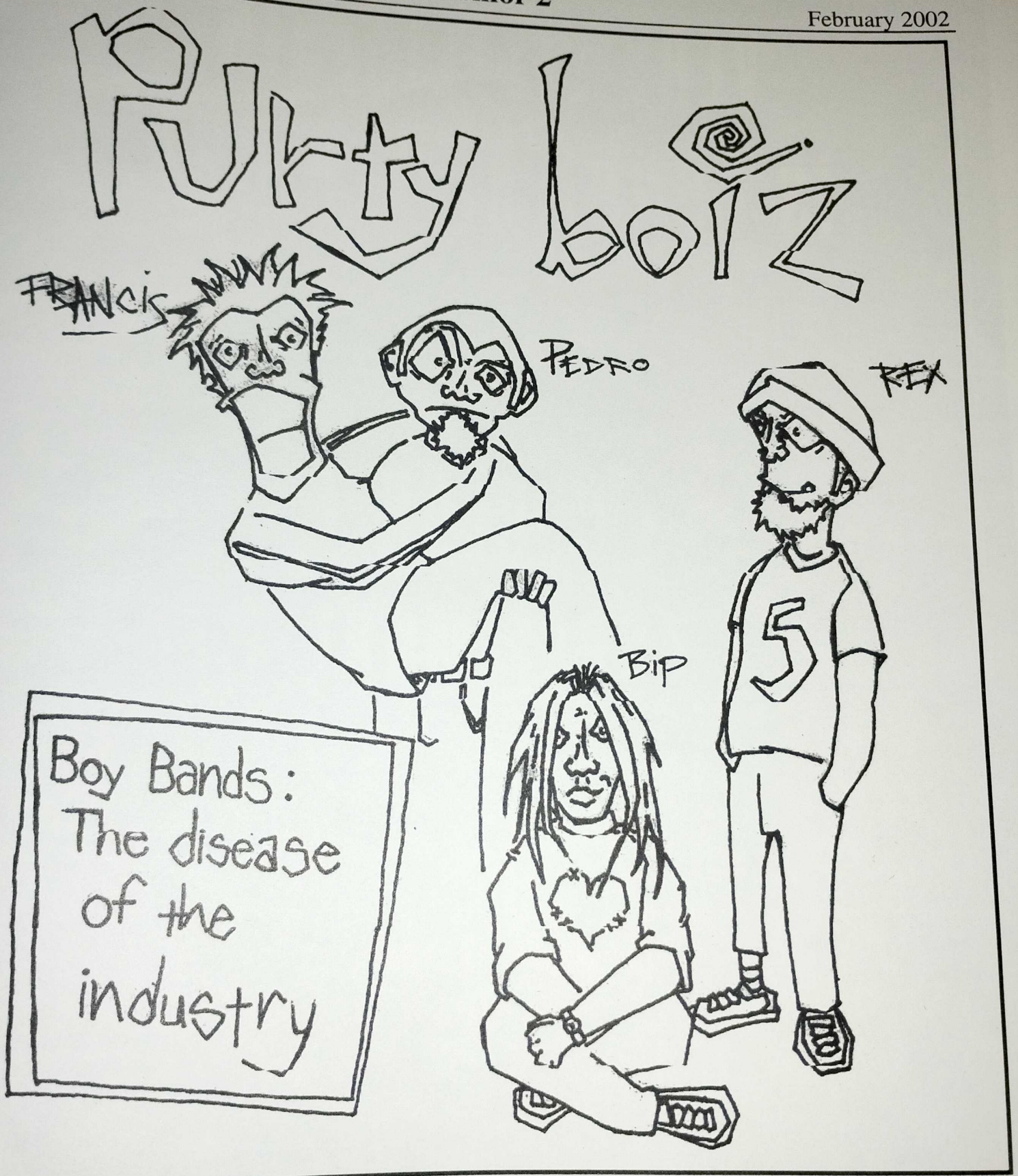
# Martha Stewart... Spawn of Satan?

*by Jay Theobald*
*Copy Editor*

Anthrax. Terrorism. Canned meat products. My fellow comrades, in these troubled times we citizens need an outlet for our homicidal agression. Like you, my first thoughts were to set ablaze the old folks' home. I have since realized, however, that there is something much more deserving of our wrath. No, no, not those ugly children in those accursed tutoring commercials, nor those confounded $3.95 six dollar burgers, though both of those are fine candidates for divine retribution. No, I'm talking about the bane of all things decent, insanity incarnate, and the spawn of Satan (or so my reliable drunken informant tells me, and I believe Jim) ...Martha Stewart.

"Mahtha Thtewart ith my hero cuth thee goth the gluarthglrrgg..." said Jim's alcoholic friend Bob, shortly before collapsing in a drunken heap by the gutter and having his wallet stolen by Jim.






*...n drawn by Chris Evans*

...e RedBird Word is having, you guessed it, a coloring contest! Tear this page out and color it however you ... Turn it in to room 401 by February 30, and the lucky winner will win a FABULOUS prize. Trust us. It is ...LOUS!

# EVERY LITTLE THING IS GONNA BE ALRIGHT.

*Bob Marley*

# I COULDN'T AGREE MORE.

*Jimmy John*

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# Sports

RBW

February 2002

# Softball Warms Up During Winter Months

*by Carol Lyons*
*Sports Editor*

Most people are misled into thinking that softball is only played and practiced during the spring and summer months. Few are familiar with the hard work and dedication that goes on during the off season. Most of this off season work happens during the months of January through the start of March.

The girls started open gyms around the beginning of January. All grade levels are invited to open gyms. Open gyms give the girls an oppurtunity to learn new skills and improve their already developed skills. Freshmen are especially encouraged to attend. Open gyms consist of weightlifting, agilities, batting, throwing, fielding, running, and the overall playing of the game. The girls work out two days a week, from 6 to 8 p.m. The pitchers and catchers practice on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m.

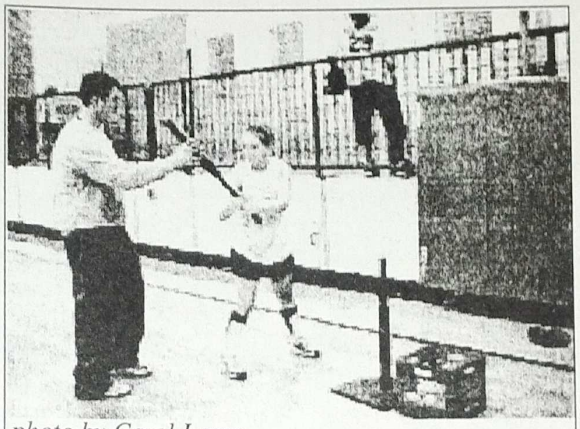

*photo by Carol Lyons*
*Sports Editor*

"The open gyms give the players a chance to start getting into shape. It also gives the coaching staff an extra look to help them decide who has what it takes to make the team come tryouts, February 25th," said Coach Dan Carter.

The first game for the girls will be against East Alton Wood River in Wood River.

# Baseball Starts Season Early

*by Amy Stabell*

The baseball team is getting prepared to put another great season under their belt. The varsity team has been training since November 19. The freshman and sophomore team started their training January 28.

Coach Michael Bellm makes the team run, lift weights and perform calisthenics or feet drills. The boys will soon start hitting and fielding drills. They train for two hours a day, five days a week.

The varsity team agrees that the conditioning is necessary. "Conditioning isn't only to get in shape, it prepares us mentally for the upcoming games as well," said varsity player Thomas Richards. Team members Steven Stone and Jeremy Bond have hopes of making it to state this year.

The tryouts for the new members will be held on February 25-27. The first game will be on March 18 at Chaminade.

## Fun Facts

**1.** Cal Ripken Jr. played in 2,632 consecutive baseball games.

**2.** Babe Ruth wore a cabbage leaf under his cap while playing, and he changed it every two innings.

**3.** In 1963 the MVP's of the Major Leagues, the NFL, and the NBA all wore the same uniform number (#32).

**4.** The average lifespan of a Major League baseball is seven pitches.

**5.** Before 1859, baseball umpires were seated in padded chairs behind home plate.

**6.** Willie Mays has been the only player to hit four home runs in one game and three triples in another.

**7.** Baseball is the only sport that looks backward in a mirror.

# SAY HELLO TO KARIO!

## WORD FIND!

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| **Cupid** | **Candies** | **Love** | **Diamonds** |
| **Heart** | **Engagements** | **Kisses** | **Roses** |
| **Chocolate** | **Forever** | **Hugs** | |

## Who is your dream Valentine and why?

**Taylor Nix (11)-** Vince Piazza because he's the sweetest guy in the whole world.

**Sam Miles (12)-** Harrison Ford. He's rugged and he makes my butter melt.

**Alex Vinson (12)-** Claire Yanta. What can I say? I like her!

**Matt Anderson (12)-** Mrs. Bill Gates so she'll buy me a very expensive present.

**Chris Lauschke (11)-** Jessica Simpson and Britney Spears together. Do I even need to say why?

**Kristina Bemis (11)-** Josh Hartnett. He's extremely hot, and very talented.

**Meghan Kayser (10)-** Martin Miller. He's such a cutie and I miss him so much!

**Willie Hubert (9)-** Jennifer Lopez. She has a big "bank account."

**Crystal Cox (9)-** Chad Dorris. He is so sweet to me, and we love each other a lot.

**Susie Scyoc (11)-** Ashton Kutcher. He's so funny, and has a lot of money to buy me flowers.

**Adrian Polowy (10)-** Bizzy D, the lead singer of SUM 41, because he is the hottest lead singer of them all!

## HOROSCOPES!

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)-** If you are single and looking, you may just find that new, special someone somewhere where you least expect it.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec.21)-** You have waited for love to find you, but now you are tired of waiting. This is not the month to rely on fate to take its course on your behalf without you participating at least a little.

**Capricorn (Dec.22-Jan.19)-** February could bring some teeter-tottering of your relationship scales. You have too many demands on your time now. Parents and family lovingly tug at you for attention.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb.18)-** You have become so attractive to others this month that your charm even surprises you. Take advantage of all the attention you will get this month.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)-** February is the month of love for you. Take lots of time for your partnership now. Pay attention to the emotional needs of your significant other.

**Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)-** Aries are warm-hearted and hot-blooded, but you feel like romance is a wet blanket this month. Don't worry, it is just temporary! Whether you are with your partner or not, it won't matter much this month.

**Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20)-** Communication is your key to success to love this month. You score high on the communication meter because it comes from your heart.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)-** Your depressing times this month might remind you of a past relationship that ended even if it wasn't your choice. Losing this connection is a warning that it might happen again in the future.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)-** Redirect your energy to focus on the light-hearted nature of your love relationship. Maybe you didn't even know your partner had a fun side. Try it and see.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)-** You have so much energy this month that your friends might not be able to keep up. Sacrifice your needs for another's. You'll find this month a welcome change of pace and you'll begin to do what YOU want to do.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)-** You've had enough already of the airy-fairy relationship possibilities that have not happened for a long time. Just a little hint: wear electric blue this month to attract a new love or to perk-up an existing relationship.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)-** You tend to make looks the first thing you notice on the opposite sex . Try to concentrate more on their sense of humor and personality. It might get you where you have always wanted to be.